

## CLAIMS

### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1        1. A method of adjusting relative value of implemented computer  
2 configuration changes, the method comprising:
  - 3              identifying computer configuration changes in a computer system;
  - 4              obtaining performance metrics for the computer system before and after computer  
5 configuration changes implemented in the computer system; and
  - 6              assessing effectiveness of the computer configuration changes based on the  
7 obtained performance metrics.
- 1        2. The method of claim 1, further comprising increasing priority values for  
2 computer configuration changes resulting in performance improvements, the priority values  
3 being used for priority of the computer configuration changes in future recommendation sets.
- 1        3. The method of claim 1, further comprising classifying computer  
2 configuration changes not resulting in performance improvements as secondary  
3 recommendations in future recommendation sets.
- 1        4. The method of claim 1, further comprising removing computer  
2 configuration changes not resulting in performance improvements from future recommendation  
3 sets.
- 1        5. The method of claim 1, further comprising summarizing recommended  
2 actions identified for a computer user, configuration changes implemented, and the resulting  
3 change in performance
- 1        6. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a report with  
2 performance trends on a plurality of computer systems where recommended configuration  
3 changes are not implemented.

1           7.       The method of claim 1, further comprising analyzing computer metrics on  
2 the computer system and proposing configuration changes based on the analysis of computer  
3 metrics.

1           8.       The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining performance metrics for the  
2 computer system before and after computer configuration changes comprises accessing stored  
3 computer metrics in a database.

1           9.       A system comprising:  
2              hardware components in a computer system;  
3              installed software in the computer system;  
4              configuration settings indicating configuration conditions for the hardware  
5 components and the installed software; and  
6              programmed instructions configured to:  
7                  identify implemented configuration changes in the computer system;  
8                  collect performance metrics associated with the computer system having  
9 the identified implemented configuration changes; and  
10                 weight effectiveness of the identified implemented configuration changes.

1           10.      The system of claim 9, further comprising programmed instructions  
2 configured to analyze the computer system and propose configuration changes based on the  
3 analysis.

1           11.      The system of claim 10, wherein the proposed configuration changes are  
2 prioritized based on weighted effectiveness.

1           12.      The system of claim 9, further comprising programmed instructions  
2 configured to provide reports on implemented configuration changes.

1           13.      The system of claim 9, wherein proposed configuration changes with low  
2 weighted effectiveness are removed from a recommendation set.

1           14. The system of claim 9, wherein the computer system is one of a plurality  
2 of computer systems coupled to a common network.

1           15. The system of claim 14, wherein the configuration changes identified  
2 correspond to configuration change proposals established based on performance analysis of  
3 identified configuration changes in other computer systems in the plurality of computer systems  
4 coupled to the common network.

1           16. The system of claim 15, wherein configuration change proposals have a  
2 priority based on the weighted effectiveness of the identified implemented configuration  
3 changes.

1           17. A system for adjusting relative value of implemented configuration  
2 changes on computer systems in a network, the system comprising:  
3                 means for obtaining configuration information for the computer systems in the  
4 network;  
5                 means for obtaining performance data for the computer systems in the network;  
6                 means for recommending configuration changes to one of the computer systems  
7 in the network;  
8                 means for obtaining performance data for the one of the computer system after  
9 implementation of recommended configuration changes; and  
10                means for adjusting relative value of the recommended configuration changes  
11 based on an evaluation of the performance data after implementation of recommended  
12 configuration changes.

1           18. The system of claim 17, wherein configuration changes are recommended  
2 based on relative value where high value indicates performance improvement based on the  
3 configuration changes.

1           19. The system of claim 17, further comprising means for reporting relative  
2 value of the recommended configuration changes.

- 1                   20. The system of claim 17, further comprising eliminating a configuration  
2 change from a recommendation set where the configuration change has a low relative value.